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Group D Statements

**Statements delivered by
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Agenda Item 2: High-level segment: Inequality – a drag on reducing poverty and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals

(d) South–South cooperation for trade, investment and structural transformation

Mr. President, Secretary General, Excellences, honoured Delegates,

I speak on behalf of Group D and its Member States.

South-South cooperation surely belongs among the catalysts for trade and development for the developing countries, especially the LDC-s. It has its role for economic diversification, as well as for bringing new horizons for value chain strengthening through its regional and cross-regional impacts - both in order to support the better achievement of the respective SDG-s.

We regard it important, that the South-South cooperation would further strengthen its focus on empowering the women and youth and young people. These two segments represent far more than half of the population in most of the countries involved, especially in the LDC-s. We should keep our focus on segments, which represent the largest unused potential for development and recognize, that there is an increasing need and demand for job creation, empowerment for entrepreneurship, and for all the other elements that enforce it – be it accountable and stable democratic governance, adherence to the human rights, meeting the educational and skill development needs, etc.

The experience of the Group D region is that one could skyrocket its economic outputs, if these policies are in place and implemented across all sectors of governance. Many countries in our region have reached the HIC-status and are members of the European Union today, and are enjoying the fruits of this cooperation format. Similarly, several other countries have come together to take advantage of the Eurasian economic union. Thus, the lesson learned is that regional relationships have strong potential to boost one's economies.

Thank you.